

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and claims 3 and 4 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,402,530 to Saito et al. ("Saito") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,739,441 to Galletly ("Galletly") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,954,533 to Hatagishi et al. ("Hatagishi") and rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito, in view of Galletly and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,205,757 to Hertelendy et al. ("Hertelendy"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 2 each recite, *inter alia*, "wherein at least one of said relay terminals is made of a conductive material different from that of the bus bar." Support for this feature may be found throughout the original specification. For example, specific support may be found in the original specification at least at paragraph [0026] and at paragraph [0029]. Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of Saito, Galletly, and Hatagishi and/or Hertelendy clearly do not disclose, teach or suggest such a feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 2 are patentably distinguishable over the applied art.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claims 1 and 2, respectively, and are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for additional features they recite.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1-4 are distinguishable over the applied art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

* * * *

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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